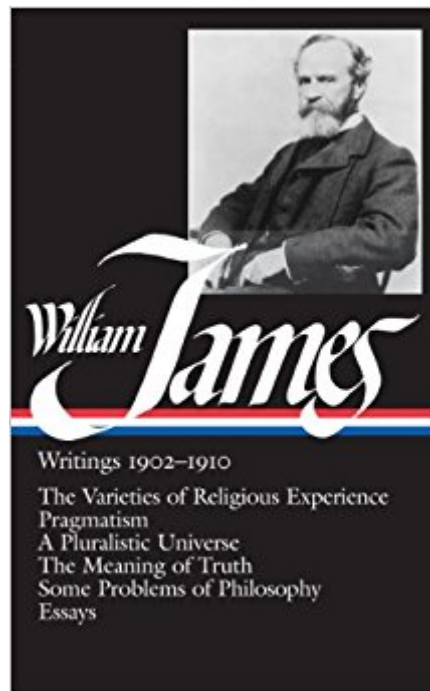


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William James : Writings 1902-1910 : The Varieties Of Religious Experience / Pragmatism / A Pluralistic Universe / The Meaning Of Truth / Some Problems Of Philosophy / Essays (Library Of America)



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

YA This volume contains the texts of five books and 19 essays, representing all of James' major work between 1902 and 1910. This latest addition to the series may fill a gap in some collections. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Library of America is an award-winning, nonprofit program dedicated to publishing America's best and most significant writing in handsome, enduring volumes, featuring authoritative texts. Hailed as "the most important book-publishing project in the nation's history" (Newsweek), this acclaimed series is restoring America's literary heritage in "the finest-looking, longest-lasting edition ever made" (New Republic).

William James: Writings 1902-1910 has as its highlight "The Varieties of Religious Experience",

comprised of a series of lectures delivered by the psychologist and philosopher, William James (Henry James' brother). William James explores the uniquely religious experience from a psychological viewpoint as distinguished from mere cynicism or pseudo-science. His approach was highly influential with the emergent 12 Step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, which emphasized the personal discovery of a power sufficient to effect an entire psychic change. This beautifully edited Library of America volume includes other works from James' late maturity-"Pragmatism", "A Pluralistic Universe", "The Meaning of Truth", "Some Problems of Philosophy", "Essays". I prefer this edition for permanence, footnotes, clarity. As James summarizes his system."...the uses of religion, its uses to the individual who has it, and the uses of the individual to the world, are the best arguments that truth is in it...the true is what works well." This is not light reading but it is eminently worthwhile, possibly life-changing. offers this spiritual & literary classic for around \$25 plus S&H.

Being first and foremost a philosopher by heart my William James readings has been like meeting a friend, with whom I not only share opinions, but the more a friend in philosophy, who's personally engaged in solving profound philosophical questions and in consequence aim for transparency. Thus, having found myself a disciple of the William James thinking, my appraisals and recommendation can be nothing short of "countless stars" and a "must read". It's a massive book of more than 1300 pages, which from the hand of James wasn't meant for a single publication. The various parts can be read independently. I myself have read all but "The Varieties of Religious Experience", why my recommendations doesn't include that part. The overall subjects of the book are "Pragmatism". William James determines pragmatism as a necessary philosophical format, which proposes itself as a mediator between the religious and the empiric mindsets by forming the pragmatic corridor, in which scientific and theoretical developments in general can meet and by means of the pragmatic adequacy criteria submit themselves for concept validation and cross-disciplinary exploration. Pragmatism, though its tendencies had always existed in philosophy, was at the time a relatively recent though international development that profoundly challenged the ruling rationalist mindset. As always, when profound paradigms are challenged, also the pragmatist point of view became subject of fierce and deep discussions, which on the other hand turned out contributing to the clarification of a wide range of philosophical positions. And this is exactly why this book is worth while reading. The writings of William James not only displays the contemporary discussion, by his excellent intellect and comprehensive knowledge of the history of philosophy his writings simultaneously becomes a kaleidoscope to the world of philosophical thinking in general, to the universe of the pragmatist mindset and to the differences between the pragmatist and rationalist

accounts. Being a collection of writings the same subjects are dealt with more times. Due to a particular interest I first read "Some Problems of Philosophy". This part is perhaps the most stringent treatment of the problems dealt with and may also to others be a good starting point. However, not going back into the lectures and the contemporary discussions you'll miss some of the greater and most rewarding parts of the book.

I studied William James as part of a survey of religion course I took in college; his work had a huge impact on my religious thought. He was a true American philosopher. Library of America craftsmanship is the best.

This is the way books should be made. Even has the ribbon bookmark. One to keep in your library. The books contained are classic...no need to review those, though my former prof at University of Chicago considered VRE to be the most important single book to read on religion. I agree.

Exactly what I was looking for.

James is a great writer and this is a high quality publication. It even includes a built in book mark. My only wish is the publisher would provide translations for the numerous foreign words in the text so I wouldn't have to be constantly stopping to look them up.

As a philosopher, William James changed my life. Can't recommend reading his work enough. This is a great collection.

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